

Amendments to the Claims:

Please CANCEL Claims 70 and 71 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please AMEND Claims 69 and 72 through 76, and ADD claim 77, as follows.

1-68. **(Canceled)**

69. **(Currently Amended)** A method for making a tubular film comprising the steps of:

winding a thermoplastic sheet film on a columnar member with at least two turns so that leading and trailing ends of the wound film are positioned approximately on a line normal to an outer surface of the columnar member without overlapping each other;

fitting a tubular molding member over the columnar member with the wound film,
film; and

wherein a difference between an outer diameter of the columnar member and an inner diameter of the tubular molding member results in a gap between the columnar member and the tubular molding member when the tubular molding member is fitted over the columnar member, and

wherein a thermal coefficient of expansion of the columnar member is larger than a thermal coefficient of expansion of the tubular molding member; and

heating the columnar member with the wound film and the tubular molding member to a temperature at which the wound film is softened and the gap is narrowed to connect connecting the leading and trailing ends of the wound film, thereby forming the

wound film into the tubular member having a uniform thickness by heating the wound film, the columnar member, and the tubular molding member up to a temperature at which the wound film is softened, thereby forming the wound film into the tubular film.

70. (CANCELED)

71. (CANCELED)

72. (Currently Amended) The ~~film~~ method according to claim 69, wherein the leading and trailing ends ~~form butted portions on butt~~ opposite sides of a plane extending through the axis of the columnar member ~~at least one turn of the wound film~~.

73. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 69 ~~[[72]]~~, wherein the leading and trailing ends are obliquely cut to be ~~form~~ spirally-formed about the columnar member ~~butted portions~~.

74. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 72, wherein an angle formed between the ~~butted~~ leading and trailing ends and the film surface is 90° ~~with respect to a film surface~~.

75. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 72, wherein an angle formed between the ~~butted~~ leading and trailing ends and the film surface is other than 90° ~~with respect to a film surface~~.

76. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 69, wherein the ~~the~~ sheet film is made from at least one material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polyimide, polyetheretherketone, polyethersulfone, and a fluorine resin.

77. **(New)** The method according to claim 69, wherein the columnar member with wound film and the tubular molding member are heated upon being placed in a heating device.